

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested on the grounds that it places the case in condition for allowance. The non-allowed claims have been cancelled.

In an Advisory action issued 1 April 2005, the Office indicated that applicant's amendment filed under Rule 116 would not be entered because the amendments raised new grounds that would require further consideration and/or search. The Advisory action further indicated that box 2a of the Advisory action applied to the proposed amendments of claims 2 and 8 whereas the proposed amendment to claim 1 was previously searched. In box 4, the Office indicated that newly proposed or amended claims 1-7 would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims.

A telephone interview was requested of the Examiner and held on 18 April 2005 to clear up the ambiguity between boxes 2a and 4 on the Advisory action. During the interview, the Examiner clarified that claim 1, and its dependent claims 10 and 11, would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims. The proposed amendments to claims 2-9 raised new issues that would require further consideration and, thus, those claims were not in condition for allowance.

In accordance with the interview held on 18 April 2005, and the interview summary issued by the Examiner in response to that interview, the instant amendment under Rule 116 has been filed for the purpose of canceling the non-allowed claims (claims 2-9) and allowing claims 1 and 10-11 to issue on this application.

Appl. No.: 10/706,548
Docket No.: DB000972-001
Amdt. Dated: 28 April 2005
Reply to Office action of June 11, 2004

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the instant application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance for claims 1 and 10 -11 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for disposition other than through allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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